

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 14-16, 19, 21-22 and 30 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend claims 18 and 20 as follows:

C2 Sub #1
#2

18. (Four Times Amended) A method of treating a symptom associated with rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis symptoms treating effective amount of erythropoietin over a treatment period, wherein said treatment period is 3 to 6 weeks, wherein said symptom is at least one symptom selected from the group consisting of morning stiffness pain, loss of grip strength, painful joints, and swollen joints.

C2 Sub #2
#3

20. (Four Times Amended) A method of ameliorating a disease activity of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such amelioration, comprising administering to the patient a rheumatoid arthritis disease activity ameliorating effective amount of erythropoietin over a period, wherein said period comprises 3 to 6 weeks of treatment, wherein said disease activity is an erythrocyte sedimentation rate or C-reactive protein level.

REMARKS

Claims 18, 20, 23-26 and 31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14-16, 19, 21-22 and 30 are canceled and the specification and claims 18 and 20 are amended. No new matter is added by the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, such as for examples on page